Pending investigations, the said firm has been placed under abeyance, prohibiting! the export of T.M.P. A show cause notice has been also issued to the aforesaid i firm/its directors contemplating to debar them from exporting any goods and/or from receiving any export licences and also to impose fiscal penalty on the allegation that they had exported T.M.P. in contravention of the Export Policy in force.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Expansion of Marketing Operations by MMTC

1639. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether MMTC is planning to expand its marketing operations due to decanalisation of non-ferrous metals and particulars alongwith their raw materials and intermediaries;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether any plan for expansion has been drawn ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) to (c) Consequent upon decanalisation of non-ferrous metals, fertilizer raw materials, fertilizer intermediates, etc. and resultant likely impact on its turnover, MMTC has identified new areas of activities in the fields of agro, marine, gems & jewellery, textiles, leather and chemicals for expansion of its marketing operations in addition to the existing lines of its activities such as minerals, metals, fertilizers etc.

1640. *[Transferred to 8th December,* 1992.]

Export Earnings

1641. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether export earnings of the, country have not caught up so far asl reported in the Economic Times of October 29, 1992;

(b) whether exports will take into account need for essential home supplies specially the traditional items such as fish, fruits & vegetables and animal feeds etc; and

(c) whether Government would, instead, concentrate on exports of non-traditional items such as mushrooms, flowers and other western style fruts and vegetables through, increased production/productivity?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) According to the provisional figures, India's exports during the first six months of the current financial year, i.e., April-September, 1992, amounted to US $ 8549 million (Rs. 24403 crores) as compared to US $ 8113 million (Rs. 18711 crores) thereby registering a growth of 5.4 per cent (in rupee terms, 30.4 per cent). Thus the negative trend in exports, in dollar terms, during the last one year has been reversed.

(b) It is the policy of the Government to promote export of agricultural commodities in a manner that domestic availability of items of mass consumption is not affected.

(c) The Government, as a policy are encouraging export of all non-traditional value-added items, including mushrooms, flowers and other western style fruits and vegetables, through increased production and productivity. Special emphas's is being laid for development of horticulture during 8th plan and increase in productivity has been identified as thrust area with application of modern techniques.

Set-Back to Rubber Exports

1642. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that rubber exports have received a set back as reported in the Economic Times of 24th October, 1992;